THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HELD ON

Wednesday, 26th May, 1790,

AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE,

IN

WORSHIP STREET,

NEAR

BISHOPS-GATE STREET,

LONDON:

PRINTED BY J. BROWN. AT THE PRINTING-OFFICE, FAIR STREET, HORSLY-DOWN, SOUTHWARK,

1790.

AFTER ſeeking divine Aſſiſtance by Prayer, the following MESSENGERS, ELDERS and REPRESENTATIVES being preſent, *viz.* Brothers *Everſhed*, *Boorman* and *Sampſon Kingsford*, Meſſengers.

Brother *D. Taylor* in the Chair, Brothers *John Boorman* and *James Fenn* Moderators,

CHURCHES.	ELDERS.	REPRESENTATIVES.	£.	s.	d.
Whites's Alley	Charles Bulkley.				
Horſly-down,	Joſeph Brown,	John Jee and William Brent.	1	1	0
Glaſs-houſe yard,		Thomas Bell and John Treacher.	1	1	0
Beſſels Green,	John Auſtin,	John Colgate.	0	10	6
Cranbrook,		William Buſs.	1	1	0
Ditcherling,		John Dancy.	1	1	0
Waldron,					
Berkhamſtead,	Edward Sexton.		0	10	6
Hythe.			0	10	6
Horſham,	Wm. Everſhed,	Thos. Billinghurſt & Wm. Everſhed.	1	1	0
Chatham,	Samuel Neale.		0	10	6
Headcorn,	John Boorman,	Samuel Love.	1	1	0
Canterbury,	Sampſon Kingsford.		1	1	0

Coggeſhall.											
Brentford.											
Smarden.		Joſeph Seaton.		Thomas Powell.					0	10	6
Farnham,					John and Thomas Piſely.				0	10	6
Dover,		Stephen Philpot.							0	10	6
Wingham.											
Chicheſter.											
Portſmouth,						Letter.			1	1	0
Newport Iſle.											
Deal.		James Fenn.							0	10	6
Millbourn,						Letter.			0	10	6
Ramſgate.											
Horley,		Thomas Turll.							0	10	6
Burnham,											
Norwich.											
Ford & Ayleſbury.											
Lincolnſhire Aſſociation,											
Leiceſterſhire Aſſociation,					Dan Taylor,				1	1	0

On auditing the Accounts they appear as under, *viz.*

Ballance laſt Year £ 9 0 10—Received this—£ 14 14 0—Paid £ 10 0 2—In Hand £ 13 14 8

THE Minutes of the Proceedings of the laſt Aſſembly were read and confirmed. A Sermon was preached by Brother *Everſhed*, from 1 *Cor.* c. i, v. 10.

1ſt. The Church at *Saffron Walden* in *Eſſex*, having applied to the Aſſembly for a Miniſter to ſerve them, we adviſe Mr. *Bolton*, on their Invitation, to viſit them for a few Weeks upon Trial.

2d. The Churches of *Winſlow and Wickham* in *Bucks*, and *Fleet* in *Lincolnſhire*, remain ſtill unprovided with Miniſters.

3d. The Caſe of *Waldron* Church we recommend to the attention of the Meſſengers Brothers *Boorman and Dobel.*

4th. It being intimated that it is the wiſh of the Church at *Berkhamſted*, that one of the Meſſengers ſhould viſit them, we requeſt Brother *Boorman* ſo to do.

5th. From the Reports of the ſeveral Churches that have kept up conferences, &c. of the Benefits ariſing therefrom, we requeſt the Churches in general to be more attentive to this mode of Inſtruction and Edification.

6th. We again recommend to all our Churches not to fail of making ſome Collection annually, for the General Baptiſt Fund, and requeſt that they will ſend an account of what Sum is collected, on or before the 1ſt of *May*, to *Mr. Lowdell, Queen Street, Park, Southwark:* Several Churches having ſent Collections we gratefully acknowledge the Receipt, and hope others will follow their Example.

7th. A Petition being preſented from the General Baptiſt Church, at *Burnley in Lancaſhire*, for aſſiſtance towards defraying a Debt of ONE HUNDRED and SIXTY POUNDS, incurred by the Erection of a Meeting houſe in *Burnley*, we recommend to the Churches

to

to make Collections and ſend them to Mr. *Stephen Lowdell*, No. 34, *Southwark Park*.

8th. The Circular Letter appointed to be drawn up by *J. Brown and Dan Taylor*, being preſented to the Aſſembly it was ordered to be Printed and ſigned by the aforeſaid *J. Brown, and D. Taylor*.

9th. Brother *Dan Taylor's* Plan for ſupply of vacant Places was brought before the Aſſembly, and as before approved, but we fear the accompliſhment; however it was agreed to make the Experiment and recommend the Churches to aſſiſt by their contributions.

10th. The Church at *Saffron Walden* having intimated a deſire for ſome plan to be adopted for the Education of Young Miniſters, *Mr. Birley* of *St. Ives* was approved of as a proper Perſon for that buſineſs, and we appoint *Brother Auſtin* to write to him in order to know his Sentiments on that Subject.

11th. The Church at *Mitcham* having requeſted an Union with this Aſſembly, it is referred to next Year.

12th. As the Buſineſs of the Aſſembly increaſes, and is likely to increaſe, it was propoſed in future to take 2 Days for the diſpatch of it. But the propriety thereof we refer to the Churches to determine and ſend their deciſion to the next General Aſſembly.

Agreed that this Aſſembly do meet on *Wedneſday* in Whitſun Week, at the Meeting-Houſe in *Worſhip ſtreet*, *Biſhopſ-gate ſtreet*, in the Year 1791, and that Brother *Anthony Robinſon* do preach, and on his default *Edward Sexton*, and that the Meſſengers, Elders, and Repreſentatives of the ſeveral Churches do meet at half paſt Nine for tranſacting Buſineſs, and that Public Worſhip begin at half paſt Eleven o'clock.

Agreed that the Aſſembly Book be depoſited in the care of J. BROWN.

LETTER, &c.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of Meſſengers, Elders and Repreſentatives of the ſeveral Churches of baptized Believers, conſtituted according to *Heb.* vi. 1, 2, and owning the Doctrine of General Redemption, now met at the Meeting-Houſe, in *Worſhip Street, London*, May 26th 1790, ſend Chriſtian Salutation to the ſeveral Churches of the ſame Faith, wiſhing them all Peace and Joy thro' believing, and that the Power of Religion may be promoted, and the means to ſupport and carry it on to Perfection, purſued with unwearied Diligence and Zeal.

To this purpoſe we beg leave to remind you of the Foundation on which ye are built, of your Repentance from dead Works, your Faith towards GOD, your ſubmiſſion to the Ordinance of Baptiſm and laying on of hands, and your belief of the Reſurrection of the Dead and eternal Judgment.

Ye well know, that Religion ariſes from a principle of Love, wrought in the Soul by the Word and Spirit of GOD, and has its Seat in the Heart, whereby the Chriſtian converſes with GOD in all religious Duties and Exerciſes.——For inſtance,—in prayer, there is a noble Elevation of Soul towards GOD, and it is enabled to utter forth, with filial affection, the pious breathings of a devout Heart.—In hearing the Word, the Affections are moved, and the mind influenced to correſponding acts of Devotion, and it becomes to the Soul an ingrafted word, which works a virtuous Temper and Diſpoſition of mind that is able to ſave the Soul; the Word is the power of Life unto Life.—In the Lord's Supper, the Mind is fraught with affectionate Meditations on the Sufferings of Chriſt, and the Elements, partook of, are the happy means of promoting Spiritual Converſe with a crucified Saviour.—In private Meditation, the Contemplation of the works

of

of Nature, the Perfections and Purity of the Divine Being and the various Truths of the Goſpel, exalt the Mind above this World. ——— This ſingle and ſeparate Experience engages Chriſtians mutually to flock together in our Churches and Congregations, and tends to promote Friendly Conferences and free Converſe with one another for the Support of the Life of Religion which is the only Glory of our public Aſſemblies or private Meetings.

To promote this we would call you to examine yourſelves what in the midſt of your Profeſſion you know of theſe things? There certainly is a divine Power in Religion, as obſerved by the Apoſtle Paul, ſpeaking of Perſons who had the form of Godlineſs, when he ſays in the connection, but "*they denied the Power.*" Endeavour therefore to work on your Minds the neceſſity of ſuch Power, by a ſerious Reading of the ſacred Pages and obſerving the pathetic Expreſſions ſcattered through them, declaring its Reality and Importance; whence can thoſe heart breathings and longings of the Pſalmiſt in xlii. *Pſalm*, v. 1, 2, and lxxiii. *Pſalm* v. 25, 26, and many others ariſe, but from the Power of Religion ſuitable to the import of ſuch devout Expreſſions? Be convinced then of the truth, and by an intimacy with the ſacred Pages, and the Heaven wrought Aſpirations of the writers, and the Converſe and Experience of Good Men, endeavour to awaken and realize the ſame apprehenſions of divine things on your own Minds.

We further beg of you in a Senſe of want and weakneſs to go to GOD by Prayer, and aſk his help, this is the way he hath appointed, what he delights in, and there is no Duty more influential than this, when the Soul in a ſenſe of it's wants, ſincerely calls upon GOD, nay we may ſay it is not only the means of Life, but it is part of the happineſs enjoyed by the real Chriſtian. Unite to what has been ſaid the uſe of means appointed for this end.

We further desire and request those of a long standing in the Churches, strong in Faith, and advanced in knowledge, that, as they would wish their own establishment, they would use all means to strengthen the Young Converts, by shewing Sympathy and Compassion and taking care lest you should offend or injure them,— for instance, suppose One sensible of Sin and Weakness, be cautious lest by converse or conduct you might seem to him to make light of Sin, or be insensible of your own weakness — Suppose another desirous to learn of Christ and receive help from him "endeavour to recommend the Lord Jesus Christ to his Person in all his value and excellencies, as represented in the Gospel; for Christ alone is the proper Refuge for a Sinner under a sense of Sin." We speak of this not that we would charge you with any want of Regard, but lest for want of that ardor and warmth of Spirit which the young Convert might expect, he might be put to a stand, think his Sentiments wrong, look on his hopes and Reliance fruitless; and that as there is no help in himself, so there is no help in another, and by these means be lost. On the contrary, then give the Lord Jesus his due honour; speak in the highest strains of his goodness experienced by you, the Expectations you have from him and see to it that the whole flow naturally, as from a heart-felt Experience of the value, worth, excellency and suitableness of Christ. — Suppose a Third thus far founded, walking worthy and wanting to know more. Dont impose mysterious Articles of Faith, but on the contrary lead him to plain matters of Duty, such as Love to God, his ways and to Mankind; this, with comparing Experiences and examining Evidences, may be useful to his Soul, tend to promote the Interest of Religion, increase the number of our Members, and be the Establishment and Glory of our Churches.

Signed by Order and in behalf of the Assembly.

J. BROWN.
DAN. TAYLOR.

Account of the Receipts and Diſburſements of the Managers of the FUND for aſſiſting Miniſters and Students of the GENERAL BAPTIST Perſuaſion, from the 2d of *June*, 1789, to the 25th of *May*, 1790.

Collected in LONDON.

By the Congregations in *Worſhip Street*, *Shoreditch* — — — — — — —	18	16	6
By the Congregation in *Church Lane*, *White Chapel*, — — — — — — —	29	7	6
	48	4	0
By One Year's Dividend on the Funded Stock, — — — — — — —	121	13	6
	169	17	6

Collected by Churches in the Counties. *May*, 1790.

Aſterby, Lincolnſhire —	1	1	0
Berkhamſted and Cheſham —	1	10	0
Boſton, Lincolnſhire —	0	10	6
Beſſells Green — —	1	12	0
Chatham — —	1	8	0
Coningſby — — —	0	10	6
Cranbrook — — —	3	4	0
Coggeſhall Eſſex — —	0	10	6
Craigfayod, Wales — —	1	2	6
Chatteris, Cambridge	1	8	0
Caldwell — —	1	8	0
Dover — —	1	1	0
Deal — —	0	10	6
Fleet — — —	2	2	0
Goſberton — —	0	15	0
Guildford — —	1	3	6

Headcorn and Biddenden	3	14	0
Horſham			
Hythe	1	1	0
Halifax	0	16	0
Kingsford, M. Sampſon	5	5	0
Knipton, Lincolnſhire	0	10	6
Kilſby near Daventry	0	10	0
Maidſtone	2	2	0
Monkſthorp and Burgh	1	6	0
Moreton Hampſted, Devon.	1	3	0
Nutfield Surry	0	5	0
Oxted Surry, by Mr. Palmer ſenr.	0	5	6
Ditto——by Mr. Palmer junr.	0	7	6
Queenſhead Yorkſhire	0	17	0
Ruſhall, Wilts.	0	2	9
Ramſgate, Kent	1	1	0
Smarden and Staplehurſt	2	6	0
Swaffham, Norfolk	0	4	0
Stanger, Dr. of Harringworth	10	0	0
Southwich, Wilts.	0	10	6
Tetney, Lincolnſhire	0	10	6
Tetford, Norfolk *vid.* Swaffham			
Wiſbeach	1	16	0
Wadſworth Yorkſhire	0	15	3
Whitehead Dr. 11*th Nov* 1789,	2	2	0
Yalden, Kent	0	15	0

N. B. One Guinea from Melbourn Churches.
Half a Guinea the Church at Mitcham by *Mr. Dancey.*
Half a Guinea Church at Southwich, Wilts.
£ 4 0 0 From the church at Horſham.
£ 2 2 0 To Mrs. Marlotts of Briſtol, by *Mr. Everſhed.*

Came too late for Diſtribution this Year.

Diſburſements

DISBURSEMENTS.

Divided — — — — — 230 0 0

Among the following Miniſters and Students.

Barron Thomas, Melbourn, Cambridge.
Boyce Gilbert, Coningſby, Lincolnſhire.
Baſſet Anthony, Staplehurſt.
Booth John, Halifax.
Bratley John, Tetney, Lincolnſhire.
Clark, Law. Monkſthorp and Burgh do.
Dexter, Canterbury.
Ellis John, Guildford, Surry.
Fant Thomas, Goſberton, Lincolnſhire.
Freſton Joſeph, Wiſbeach.
French Robert, Coggerſhall.
Freeman Thomas, Ruſhall, Wiltſhire.
Goodrick George, Swaffham and Tetford, Norfolk.
Iſaac Jacob, Moreton-Hamſtead, Devon.
Iſaac Daniel, Craigfayod, Wales.
Kelſey William, Knipton, Leiceſterſhire.
Kingsford George, Ramſgate, Kent.
Neal Samuel, Chatham, Kent.
Norton Charles, Caldwell.
Palmer Nathaniel, ſenr. Oxted, Surrey.
Philpot Stephen, Dover, Kent.
Pickering Nathaniel, Caſtle Donington, Lincolnſhire.
Proud John, Wiſbeach or Norwich, Norfolk.
Proud Joſeph, Norwich, do.
Prowit Edward, Newcaſtle.
Sargent David, Nutfield, Surry.
Scott Joſeph, Chatteris, Cambridgeſhire.
Seaton Joſeph, Chatham, &c. Kent.
Sexton Edward, Cheſham, Bucks.
Smith John, Ditcherling Suſſex.
Sturch John, Iſle of White.
Sutcliff John, Birch's Cliff, Yorkſhire.
Taylor John, Queenſhead, do.

Thruſſel William, Berkhamſtead, Hertfordſhire.
Twining Thomas, Trowbridge, Wiltſhire.
Wade Thomas, Kilſby, Northamptonſhire.
Wiche John, Maidſtone, Kent.
Wright John, Aſterby, Lincolnſhire.

To Students for Books.

Cope James, Farnham. — — 1ſt time
Denman William, Hythe. — — 3d time.
Doble Jacob, Staplehurſt. — — 2d time.
Doble Joſeph, Cranbrook. — — 1ſt time.
Huddy David, — — 2d time.
Lloyd, Ditcherling — — 1ſt time.
Palmer Nath. junr. Oxted, — 3d time.
Pickering Wm. Aſhford Derby — 1ſt time.
Pollard John, Swithland, — — 2d time.
Slyer Joſeph, — — 3d time.
Truman Thomas, — — 1ſt time.
Unicum Creaſey, Cranbrook. — 2d time.
Whitaker Edmund, — 1ſt time.
Whight Samuel, — 1ſt time.

N. B. The Society conſiſts of a Treaſurer and ſeveral other Truſtees, in whoſe names the Capital Fund ſtands in the Bank of England, and of ſuch Managers as are choſen Annually by the Congregations in *Worſhip Street, Shoreditch*, and in *Church Lane, White Chapel, London.*

Preſent Truſtees.
Stephen Lowdell, *Southwark Park, Treaſurer.*
John Treacher, *Pater-Noſter Row.*
Wm. Sturch, *Stanhope Street, Clare Market.*
Porter Ridout,

*** Donations for this Charity, how ſmall ſo ever, will be gratefully accepted by the Truſtees

☞ Whoever is deſirous of benefiting this Deſign by their laſt Wills are deſired to do it in the following Manner, *viz.*

" I give and bequeathe out of my Perſonal Eſtate to the " Treaſurer for the Time being of the General Baptiſt " Fund in London, of which Stephen Lowdell of *South-* " *wark Park*, was Treaſurer in the Year 1787, the Sum of Pounds, for the Benefit of that Charity.

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CONTAINING

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AND

Many other curious Obſervations never before Publiſhed.

BY SAMUEL STEARNS, LL. D.

AND DOCTOR OF PHYSIC;

ASTRONOMER TO HIS MAJESTY'S PROVINCES OF QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWIC;

ALSO, TO THE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
AND THE STATE OF VERMONT, IN AMERICA.

Omnia probate, & quod bonum eſt tenete.

LONDON:

Sold by Mr. PARSONS, No. 21, Pater-Noſter-Row. 1791.

[PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.]

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Present Trustees. Stephen Lowdell, *Southwark Park*, *Treasurer*.
John Treacher, *Pater-Noster Row*.
Wm. Sturch, *Stanhope Street*, *Clar*
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- THE END -

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